question through dialogue. The boundary question was discussed in broad terms during the recent visit to India of Mr. Li Peng.

During the recent visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National Peoples Congress to India in January, 2001, our Prime Minister had discussed the boundary question with him in broad terms. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress made on LAC clarification exercise.

Light Combat Aircraft

1168. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first prototype of the Light Combat Aircraft had a 20 minutes test flight at Bangalore on 4th January, 2001;

(b) if so, what further technology demonstrations are scheduled to be undertaken by the LCA before it enters the manufacturing stage and is added upto the IAF combat aircraft fleet;

(c) the delay already suffered by the LCA Project and the cost escalation suffered by it so far;

(d) whether Government has received orders/enquires for purchase of this aircraft from some countries; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The maiden flight of the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Technology Demonstrator (TD-1) took place in Bangalore on January 4, 2001 and the aircraft flew for 18 minutes.

(b) During the flight test phase, demonstrations of core technologies, Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) is planned using two LCA technology demonstrators and five LCA prototypes.

(c) The LCA was planned to be inducted in IAF after IOC in the year 2003. There is a delay of about two years. The present sanctioned cost of LCA programme is Rs. 2854 crore.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.